

SOUTH CAROLINA LAW ENFORCEMENT DIVISION



Contact: Kathryn Richardson
Office: (803) 896-7013
After Hours: (803) 737-9000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 4, 2005

FORMER POLICE OFFICER CHARGED WITH MISCONDUCT

A former Lake City police officer was arrested Wednesday afternoon, August 3, 2005, and charged with **Misconduct in Office, Obstruction of Justice, Misprision of a Felony** and **Acceptance of Money to Conceal an Offence Involving a Felony**.

The officer is identified as **Shanita McKnight**, 32, who currently resides at 322 Wilmont Street, Lake City, S.C. She was arrested around 4:15 p.m. and was booked at the Florence County Detention Center.

The arrest is a result of a joint investigation conducted by SLED, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Florence County Sheriff's Office and the Williamsburg County Sheriff's Office. The case will be prosecuted by the Twelfth Circuit Solicitor's Office.

-0-

*Warrants and Affidavit Attached.

ARREST WARRANT

H# 957801

H957801

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County of ☐ Florence Municipality of

THE STATE

SHANITA MCKNIGHT
322 WILMONT STREET

Address: LAKE CITY, SC

Phone: 843350343

SSN:

Sex: Race: B Height: Weight:

DOB: 4/22/1973

Agency ORI#:

Prosecuting Agency:

BRISES/Acceptance of money to conceal an offense involving a

Code/Ordinance Sec. 16-09-0370(a)

This warrant is certified for service in the County of ☐ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to law.

Signature of Judge

(L.S.)

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County of ☒ Florence Municipality of

AFFIDAVIT

FILED JOHN BARTELL

Personally appeared before me the affiant, SHANITA MCKNIGHT, who being duly sworn deposes and says that defendant, did within this county and state on 07/00/2008 violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of ☐) in the following particulars:

DECEITFULNESS

16-09-0370(a)

BRISES/Acceptance of money to conceal an offense involving a felony

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the offense between 1998 and 2008 in Lake City, SC also located in the County of Florence. The defendant did commit the crime of acceptance of money to conceal an offense involving a felony, REASON TO BELIEVE THE SAME: SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT, PAGES 1-8.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County of ☒ Florence Municipality of

Affiant's Address: P.O. Box 66

Affiant's Telephone: 843666644

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appears from the above affidavit that there is reasonable grounds to believe that on 07/00/00 defendant SHANITA MCKNIGHT did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of ☒ County/ ☐ Municipality of ☐) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE:

16-09-0370(a)

BRISES/Acceptance of money to conceal an offense involving a felony

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution or as soon thereafter as is practicable. Sworn to and signed before me

on

MAGISTRATE BUILDING

Judge's Address: 100 W. IRBY STREET, MCKINNEY

Judge's Telephone: 8436666051

Signature of Issuing Judge

Judge's Telephone

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ CircuitForm Approved by
U.S. Attorney General
8/22/2005
8/22/05

ORIGINAL

AUG 3 2005 4:13 PM

2005.08.03 4:13 PM

ARREST WARRANT
H- 957798 H957798

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ FLORENCE Municipality of

THE STATE
SHANITA MCKNIGHT
322 WILMONT STREET

Address: LANE CITY, SC
Phone: 813850033 SSN: [REDACTED]
Sex: F Race: [REDACTED] Height: [REDACTED] Weight: [REDACTED]
DL State: 4/22/973 Agency Code: [REDACTED]
DOB: [REDACTED]
Prosecuting Agency: [REDACTED]
MISPRISON OF A FELONY
Offense: [REDACTED]
Code/Ordinance Sec: C/L, 17-25-0030

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the
☐ County/ ☐ Municipality of

The accused
is to be arrested and brought before me to be
dealt with according to law.

Signature of Judge (L.S.)

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to
defendant on

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ FLORENCE Municipality of

AFFIDAVIT

SLED JOHN BARTELL

Personally appeared before me the affiant
being duly sworn depose and say that defendant
did within the county and state on 06/00/2000
State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of)
violate the FLORENCE laws of the
In the following particulars:
DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE:
MISPRISON OF A FELONY
C/L, 17-25-0030

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit
the crime between 1999 and 2005 in Lane City, SC ALSO LOCATED
IN THE COUNTY OF FLORENCE, THE DEFENDANT DID COMMIT THE CRIME OF MISPRISON
OF A FELONY.
REASON TO BELIEVE THE SAME: SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT, PAGES 1-8.

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
☒ FLORENCE Municipality of

Affiant's Address: P.O. BOX 88
FLORENCE, SC 29501
Affiant's Telephone: 8138525245

ARREST WARRANT

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

If I appear from the above
06/00/00 defendant that the grounds to believe that
on did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of
FLORENCE) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE:
C/L, 17-25-0030

MISPRISON OF A FELONY

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said
defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to
the defendant at the time of its execution or as soon thereafter as is practicable.
Sworn to and 06/00/00 before me

on

MAGISTRATE BUILDING

Judge's Address: 100 N. IRBY STREET, MCG-W

Judge's Telephone: 843850031

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Judge Code: 178
Issuing Court: ☐ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

Form Approved by
S.C. Attorney General
April 21, 2000
SC04.010

ORIGINAL

Aug. 3. 2005 4:31PM

No. 7558 P. 4

ARREST WARRANT

H- 957799

H957799

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ COUNTY OF FLORENCE Municipality of

THE STATE

SHANITA MCKNIGHT
322 WILMONT STREET

Address: LAKE CITY, SC

Phone: 82385033 SSN: [REDACTED]

Sex: Race: Height: Weight:

DL State: 4/22/873 Agency DR#:

DOB: Agency DR#:

Prosecuting Agency:

CLERK OF DISTRICT JUDGE

Code/Ordinance Sec. C/L, 17-25-0030

This warrant is CERTIFIED FOR SERVICE in the County/ Municipality of

The accused is to be arrested and brought before me to be dealt with according to law.

Signature of Judge (L.S.)

Date:

RETURN

A copy of this arrest warrant was delivered to defendant

Signature of Constable/Law Enforcement Officer

RETURN WARRANT TO:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ COUNTY OF FLORENCE Municipality of

AFFIDAVIT

SLED JOHN BARTELL

Personally appeared before me the affiant, SHANITA MCKNIGHT, being duly sworn deposes and says that on 9/10/2000 she was within this county and state on the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of) who violate the laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of)

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE: OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

C/L, 17-25-0030

I further state that there is probable cause to believe that the defendant named above did commit the offense between 9/10/2000 and 9/10/2000 in Lake City, SC ALSO LOCATED IN THE COUNTY OF FLORENCE, THE DEFENDANT DID COMMIT THE CRIME OF OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE, REASON TO BELIEVE THE SAME: SEE ATTACHED AFFIDAVIT, PAGES 1-8.

FOR APPROVAL BY
JUDGE
April 21, 2005
800A 614

Signature of Affiant

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

☒ COUNTY OF FLORENCE Municipality of

Affiant's Address: P.O. BOX 56

Affiant's Telephone: 84385033

TO ANY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR MUNICIPALITY OR ANY CONSTABLE OF THIS COUNTY:

It appears from the above affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that defendant SHANITA MCKNIGHT did violate the criminal laws of the State of South Carolina (or ordinance of County/ Municipality of) as set forth below:

DESCRIPTION OF OFFENSE:

C/L, 17-25-0030

OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE

Having found probable cause and the above affiant having sworn before me, you are empowered and directed to arrest the said defendant and bring him or her before me forthwith to be dealt with according to law. A copy of this Arrest Warrant shall be delivered to the defendant at the time of its execution, or as soon thereafter as is practicable.

Sworn to and signed before me on

MAGISTRATE BUILDING

Judge's Address: 180 N. IRBY STREET, MSC-4

Judge's Telephone: 84385033

Signature of Issuing Judge (L.S.)

Issuing Court: ☒ Magistrate ☐ Municipal ☐ Circuit

ORIGINAL

No. 7558 P. 6
Aug. 3. 2005 4:32PM

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FLORENCE COUNTY

AFFIDAVIT

I, Johnny Bartell, having been duly sworn, do hereby state and depose as follows:

I have been a Special Agent with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED) for approximately the past twelve years. Pursuant to an investigation being conducted by SLED, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the Florence County Sheriff's Office, I have received the following information:

On April 27, 2004, SOURCE 1, a drug dealer in the Lake City, South Carolina area, who was convicted on federal criminal drug charges, was interviewed pursuant to his cooperation with the federal Government. SOURCE 1 advised that SHANITA MCKNIGHT, who was an officer of the Lake City Police Department, tipped SOURCE 1 off on a few occasions as to police activities, but SOURCE 1 never paid her any money for the information. MCKNIGHT provided the information to SOURCE 1 to assist SOURCE 1's attempts to elude being arrested by law enforcement authorities for dealing drugs in the Lake City area.

On March 11, 2005, SHANITA MCKNIGHT, nee Scott, was interviewed and provided the following information:

a. MCKNIGHT advised that she has been employed by the Lake City Police Department (LCPD) for approximately the last seven years.

b. MCKNIGHT's grandmother, Mamie Lou McFadden,

1 owned a nightclub in Lake City, Mamie Lou's. MCKNIGHT's
2 aunt, Albergail McFadden, actually ran the nightclub for her
3 grandmother. Albergail McFadden was the girlfriend of
4 Lorenzo Jones, also known as Florida Dave, who was recently
5 arrested on drug charges. MCKNIGHT admitted that there has
6 often been rumors of drug activity at the nightclub.

7 c. MCKNIGHT initially advised that she would tip
8 off her aunt and tell her to be careful if there was going to
9 be any police activity in the area of the nightclub that her
10 aunt operated. MCKNIGHT never tipped off her aunt or anyone
11 at the nightclub prior to specific police operations at the
12 nightclub. MCKNIGHT admitted that she did warn other
13 individuals on occasion, if the police were going to be in
14 the area of the nightclub by telephoning her grandmother's
15 residence in Lake City.

16 d. MCKNIGHT admitted that she telephoned her
17 grandmother's residence approximately 10 to 20 times in the
18 past to warn them about police activity in the area of Mamie
19 Lou's nightclub.

20 e. When MCKNIGHT was questioned whether she ever
21 took any money from Jones in the past, MCKNIGHT admitted that
22 Jones gave her \$200 in cash during Christmas last year.
23 Jones told MCKNIGHT to buy her kids something with the money
24 for Christmas. In addition, Jones also promised to purchase
25 some stools for MCKNIGHT's grandmother's club in Lake City.
26 Jones gave MCKNIGHT the money to purchase the stools and told
27 her to keep the change, which amounted to approximately \$60.

28 On March 24, 2005, SOURCE 2, a major drug dealer in

1 the Lake City area, was interviewed and provided the
2 following information:

3 a. SOURCE 2 advised that he dated Albergaill
4 McFadden, the aunt of SHANITA MCKNIGHT, an officer with the
5 Lake City Police Department (LCPD). McFadden ran a
6 nightclub, Mamie Lou's, in Lake City. SOURCE 2 believed that
7 the actual business was in the name of MCKNIGHT or MCKNIGHT's
8 husband, not Albergaill McFadden or MCKNIGHT's grandmother,
9 Mamie Lou McFadden, since they both had criminal records. A
10 check of the records for the nightclub indicated that the
11 state liquor license was actually in the name of MCKNIGHT's
12 husband, James McKnight.

13 b. During 2004, MCKNIGHT told SOURCE 2 that
14 MCKNIGHT had been to the Railway Restaurant in Lake City and
15 that MCKNIGHT had overheard Glen Kirby, an officer with the
16 Florence County Sheriff's Office (FCSO), and some other
17 officers talking about conducting a surveillance across from
18 SOURCE 2's business, [REDACTED] in Lake City.
19 Apparently, the officers were eating lunch at the restaurant,
20 and MCKNIGHT overheard their conversations about conducting a
21 surveillance of SOURCE 2's business.

22 c. SOURCE 2 recalled that when he received the
23 information regarding the [REDACTED] being surveilled by the
24 FCSO, that SOURCE 2 went to a barber shop in Lake City and
25 SOURCE 2's son told him that MCKNIGHT was there to see him.
26 Eventually, SOURCE 2 caught up with MCKNIGHT and MCKNIGHT
27 told SOURCE 2 that the officers were watching his business
28 from a land surveyor business across the street, which was

1 located next to the Circle Park rehabilitation center.

2 d. On other occasions, SOURCE 2 received
3 information from MCKNIGHT through Albergail McFadden.
4 Apparently, MCKNIGHT would telephone Albergail McFadden and
5 tell her when officer Kirby or other narcotics officers were
6 coming to Lake City. Albergail McFadden would then notify
7 SOURCE 2 as she received the information from MCKNIGHT. When
8 officers of the PCSO came to Lake City, they apparently would
9 contact the LCPD and that was how MCKNIGHT received the
10 information. If MCKNIGHT found out the information, she
11 would tell Albergail McFadden, who would then tell SOURCE 2.

12 e. When SOURCE 2 was questioned as to how often he
13 received information regarding police activity from MCKNIGHT
14 through Albergail McFadden, SOURCE 2 advised that it occurred
15 almost every week for approximately one and a half years
16 prior to SOURCE 2's arrest. SOURCE 2 attributed the
17 information that he received from MCKNIGHT as to why he was
18 not arrested for such a long period of time, although he was
19 dealing drugs in Lake City. When SOURCE 2 received the
20 information, he would stop dealing drugs immediately for the
21 rest of the day.

22 f. It was SOURCE 2's contention that MCKNIGHT knew
23 that Albergail McFadden dealt drugs. This was especially
24 true since Mamie Lou McFadden kept MCKNIGHT's baby and all of
25 their family lived in several houses that were right in a
26 row, which was basically behind Mamie Lou's nightclub. There
27 was no doubt to SOURCE 2 that MCKNIGHT knew that Albergail
28 McFadden was dealing drugs out of Mamie Lou's nightclub.

1 g. When SOURCE 2 was questioned as to whether he
2 ever paid money to MCKNIGHT in the past, SOURCE 2 advised
3 that MCKNIGHT asked SOURCE 2 for money from time to time,
4 although SOURCE 2 never paid MCKNIGHT for any information.
5 On approximately three occasions, SOURCE 2 gave money to
6 MCKNIGHT. SOURCE 2 estimated that he paid approximately \$600
7 in cash total to MCKNIGHT.

8 h. MCKNIGHT came and got her [REDACTED] at SOURCE
9 2's [REDACTED] in Lake City on a regular basis. Eventually,
10 the whole LCPD, who knew that SOURCE 2 was a drug dealer,
11 brought their vehicles to the [REDACTED] ✓

12 i. MCKNIGHT told SOURCE 2 that on one occasion,
13 MCKNIGHT and Curt Brown, another officer with the LCPD, were
14 riding together. Brown asked MCKNIGHT, "What you gonna do
15 about your boy?" Brown was referring to SOURCE 2. Both
16 MCKNIGHT and Webb told SOURCE 2 about it after the fact.
17 After Brown was fired by the LCPD, MCKNIGHT told SOURCE 2
18 that "two wrongs don't make a right." MCKNIGHT told SOURCE 2
19 that Brown was trying to get SOURCE 2 and that Brown got what
20 he deserved. MCKNIGHT knew that Webb was also looking out
21 for SOURCE 2.

22 j. MCKNIGHT knew that Albergail McFadden was giving
23 the information that she provided to her to SOURCE 2
24 regarding police activity. Since SOURCE 2 knew that the
25 information was coming from MCKNIGHT, SOURCE 2 willingly gave
26 her money when she asked.

27 On March 31, 2005, Calvin Fulmore, a former officer
28 with the Lake City Police Department (LCPD) advised that

1 while Fulmore was an officer for the LCPD, Fulmore would get
2 calls on the radio about individuals with drugs at Mamie
3 Lou's nightclub in Lake City. Every time that Fulmore and
4 the other officers got to the nightclub, the individual would
5 be gone. Whoever was at the nightclub would tell the
6 officers that the individual had just run out the back door
7 of the club. On one occasion, Fulmore parked down the road
8 from the club and walked up to the back of the nightclub.
9 Fulmore then got a patrol car to pull up to the front of the
10 nightclub. At that time, an individual came out the back
11 door of the club and he was stopped. The individual was
12 drunk, but did not have any drugs.

13 When Fulmore was questioned regarding another
14 officer for the LCPD, SHANITA MCKNIGHT, Fulmore advised that
15 MCKNIGHT knew what was going on regarding the drug dealing
16 activity in Lake City.

17 On May 16, 2005, SOURCE 3 was interviewed and
18 provided the following information:

19 a. SOURCE 3 noted that during approximately
20 December of 2004, SHANITA MCKNIGHT, who was an officer with
21 the LCPD, was at Mamie Lou's nightclub, which was owned by
22 Mamie Lou McFadden and operated by Albergail McFadden.
23 MCKNIGHT sat behind the bar next to Albergail McFadden when
24 SOURCE 3 purchased an eight ball of powder cocaine from
25 Albergail McFadden for \$225 to \$250. MCKNIGHT witnessed the
26 transaction, but did not say anything at that time.

27 b. SOURCE 3 never purchased drugs from MCKNIGHT
28 directly. SOURCE 3 never saw MCKNIGHT dealing drugs.

1 MCKNIGHT did witness SOURCE 3 conduct drug transactions with
2 Albergail McFadden on approximately three to four separate
3 occasions in the past. In addition, there was a room in the
4 back of Mamie Lou's nightclub that Albergail McFadden sold
5 drugs. On numerous occasions, SOURCE 3 went into the club to
6 buy drugs from Albergail McFadden, while MCKNIGHT was
7 present. SOURCE 3 would go into the back room of the club to
8 purchase the drugs and MCKNIGHT knew that SOURCE 3 had come
9 to the club to purchase drugs from Albergail McFadden.

10 c. On numerous occasions in the past, MCKNIGHT
11 tipped SOURCE 3 off regarding police activities, such as road
12 blocks, locations where the police were going to bust,
13 directions upon leaving the nightclub after purchasing drugs
14 in order to avoid the police, and other information. In
15 exchange, SOURCE 3 purchased drugs from Albergail McFadden.

16 d. On Thanksgiving Day 2004, MCKNIGHT told
17 Albergail McFadden to close down Mamie Lou's nightclub, since
18 MCKNIGHT knew that the police were going to raid the
19 nightclub. At approximately 4:00 pm that day, Albergail
20 McFadden closed down the nightclub and told everyone to
21 leave. When the police arrived later that day, no one was at
22 the nightclub, except only a few people who were hanging
23 around in the parking lot. Those individuals were searched
24 by the police when they arrived.

25 e. After SOURCE 3 had an argument with Tyrone Hanna
26 at the Pink House in Lake City, the very next night SOURCE 3
27 was at Mamie Lou's nightclub. SOURCE 3 again argued with
28 Tyrone Hanna regarding the money that SOURCE 3 owed to Mamie

1 Lou McFadden. When SOURCE 3 initially argued with Tyrone
2 Hanna, MCKNIGHT was present and grabbed SOURCE 3 and pulled
3 him off of Tyrone Hanna. Tyrone Hanna's cousin, who works at
4 Nan Ya, went to his vehicle and retrieved a gun. MCKNIGHT
5 did not do anything when that individual pointed the gun at
6 SOURCE 3 and told him that he was going to kill him. SOURCE
7 3 initially started to fight with Tyrone Hanna, when Tyrone
8 Hanna pushed him and spit in SOURCE 3's face. SOURCE 3 then
9 hit Tyrone Hanna and kicked him while he was on the ground.
10 When MCKNIGHT grabbed SOURCE 3, SOURCE 3 pulled away from
11 MCKNIGHT. MCKNIGHT then told the individual with the gun to
12 take it out of the club. When the police arrived at the
13 nightclub, MCKNIGHT told Williams that [REDACTED], referring to
14 SOURCE 3, assaulted Pee Wee, referring to Tyrone Hanna.
15 SOURCE 3 was subsequently arrested at the Independence club
16 down the street, where he ran. Tyrone Hanna was not injured
17 in the incident and only had a busted head.

18 On June 15, 2005, SOURCE 4 was interviewed and
19 advised that when SOURCE 4 made trips to Lake City, he would
20 hang out at a [REDACTED] operated by Lorenzo Jones. While
21 SOURCE 4 was in the office at the [REDACTED] he actually
22 witnessed cash payoffs to MCKNIGHT.